

REMARKS

1 In the Examiner's Office Action dated May 18, 2004, the Examiner objected to
the abstract, disclosure and drawings. The abstract and disclosure have been
amended to overcome the Examiner's objections as set forth above. The drawings
have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection as set forth in the marked up
5 figure attached hereto. Formal corrections to the drawing shall be submitted upon the
Examiner's notice of allowance of the claims.

10 Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's notice of allowance as to claims 16-
33. With regard to claims 3-5, 9-11, 13 and 14, the Examiner objected to those claims
as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner indicated that
claims 3-5, 9-11, 13 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to
include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly,
claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice and the limitations of claim 3 have been
15 rewritten as new independent claim 34. Claim 4 has been amended to depend directly
from new claim 34 and claims 5, 9-11, 13 and 14 ultimately depend from independent
claim 34. Applicant asserts that claims 4-5, 9-11, 13-14 and 34 are now in condition for
allowance.

20 The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6-8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being
anticipated by Woolhiser. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's
argument. Even though applicant believes that the claims are in condition for allowance
as written, applicant has amended claim 1 in order to clarify claim 1 for the Examiner
and expedite this matter. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the blade has a
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right end and a left end. Claim 1 continues by reciting that the blade is selectively, 1 pivotally secured to the forward end of the mounting frame about a single vertical axis at a position generally intermediate the right end and the left end of the blade. Woolhiser does not teach or otherwise suggest these limitations. Woolhiser teaches 5 that an H-shaped frame has two forwardly extending legs. Each leg is connected to one end of the blade. Therefore, Woolhiser cannot possibly teach that the blade is selectively, pivotally secured to the forward end of the mounting frame about a single vertical access at a position generally intermediate the right end and the left end of the blade.

10 With regard to claims 2 and 6-8 of the present invention, applicant asserts that the limitations of claims 2 and 6-8 are not taught or otherwise suggested by Woolhiser. Claim 2 recites that the motor is powered by the vehicle electrical system. Claim 6 recites that the motor is operatively connected to the blade by a clutch. Claim 7 recites 15 that the clutch is a slip clutch and claim 8 recites that the motor is a fractional horsepower motor. Woolhiser does not teach a motor or a clutch system as specifically provided for in the aforementioned claims.

With regard to claim 12, the Examiner indicated that claim 12 might be more 20 favorably considered if written in means plus function format. As the Examiner suggested, the language of claim 12 has been rewritten to invoke 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph. The specification of the present invention specifically recites structure for selectively, adjustably connecting the motor to the blade. Applicant asserts that Woolhiser does not teach or otherwise suggest such structure. Accordingly, in light of 25

the above, applicant asserts that claims 1, 2, 6-8 and 12 are allowable over the
1 Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection in view of Woolhiser.

The Examiner rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable
over Woolhiser as applied above, in view of Davies. The Examiner argues that it would
5 have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made
to have mounted the blade apparatus of Woolhiser to an all-terrain vehicle. Applicant
respectfully disagrees with the Examiner. There is no suggestion in either of the
references that they may be combined in the manner suggested by the Examiner.
Furthermore, claim 15 ultimately depends from independent claim 1. Claim 1 is
10 allowable for the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, insofar as claim 15 depends
from independent claim 1, the same is also thought to be allowable.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicant asserts that the claims
are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and
15 allowance of the claims.

No extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment;
however, please consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and
charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 502093.

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Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that the original of this AMENDMENT for CHADRON D. MOFFITT, Serial No. 10/621,738, was mailed by first class mail, postage prepaid, to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 18 day of June, 2004.

Dennis L Thomte
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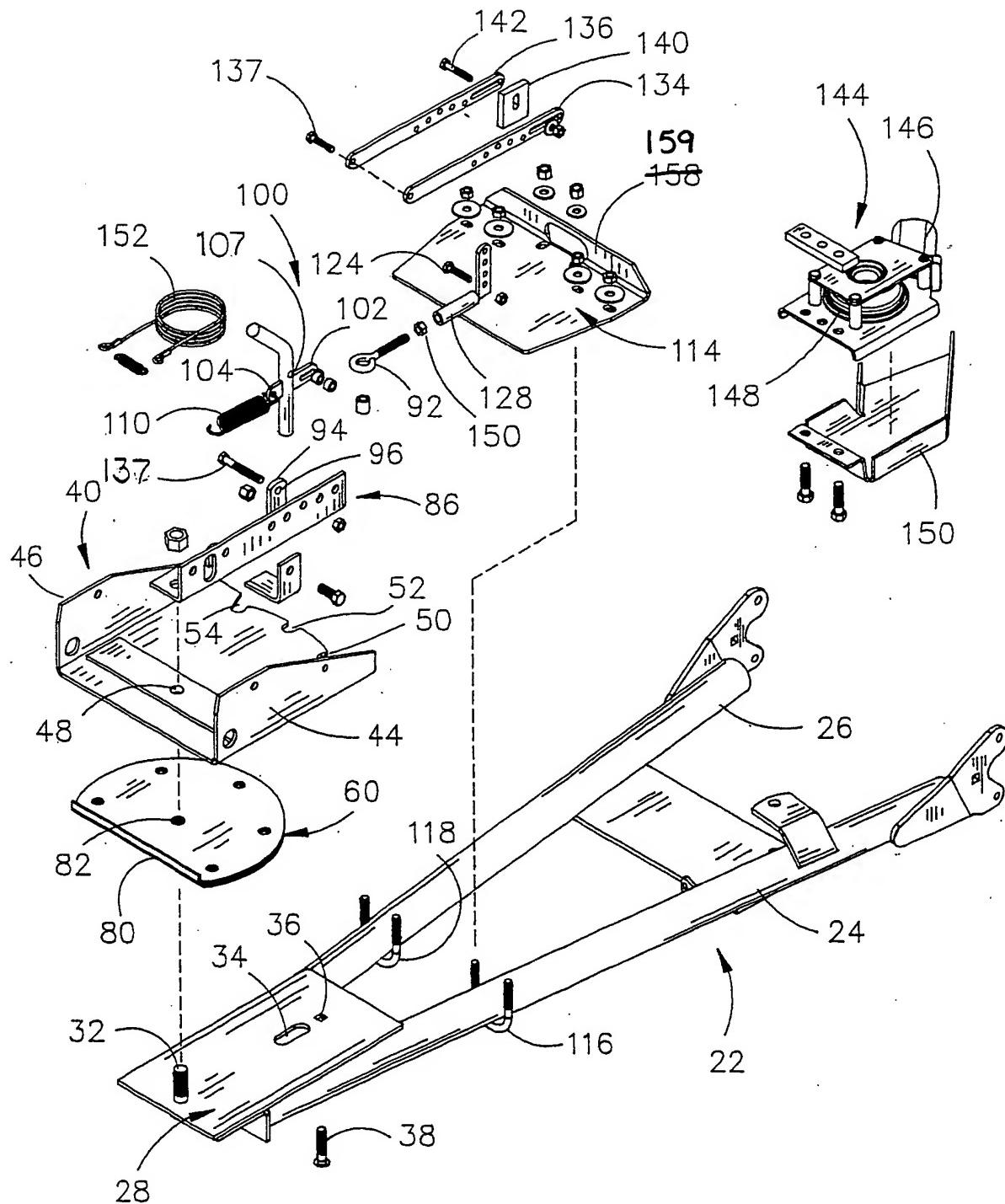


FIG. 9